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Chairman Powell
Commissioner Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

Re: FCC ET Docket 00-258

February 21, 2001

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write to you concerning the future of the ITFS spectrum, with specific regards to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on 3G that was released January 5, 2001. ITFS is both a critical part of our educational infrastructure and an essential bridge linking our area campuses. These channels also provide connectivity to the South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) Network which "backfeeds" our educational programming from Charleston to Columbia, South Carolina, which is uplinked it to SCETV Digital Satellite network and which is ultimately transmitted to sites throughout our state. Without the existing quality bandwidth, our students and our entire community would lose essential educational programming. We serve 800-900 students per term (2400-2700 per year) through our existing ITFS system. It is a system that was built by funds from a Department of Education. Title III grant that included both federal and local matching funds of approximately \$1,500,000. Such economical investment in a system that has major educational impact in our region cannot and should not be relegated to second-class status in favor of 3 G wireless.

As you are aware, recent rule changes have opened the ITFS spectrum to the possibility of wireless two-way video and broadband data services, including high speed Internet access. The educational power of ITFS has expanded to provide advanced learning services, interactive video, and wireless broadband Internet. ITFS licensees are scrambling to deploy two-way digital services. Trident has positioned itself to leverage these resources through leasing excess channel capacity through a long-term contract with a commercial firm. The ability to maintain existing educational programming and enhance existing capacities by leveraging these ITFS system resources has provided us a mechanism of funding during a time when major budgetary cuts are eminent in our state.

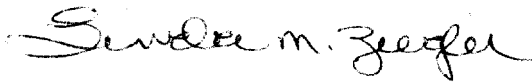
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List A B C D E

Berkeley Campus : Main Campus : Palmer Campus

If the omission reallocates all or part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness, and value of ITFS would be significantly diminished. Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, our college could lose its ITFS service altogether, face new equipment costs, experience service disruption and cutbacks, and see existing ITFS service relegated to lower quality service and signal interference.

If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, our educational infrastructure will be compromised. Trident Technical College hopes that you will maintain the integrity of the existing ITFS spectrum and keep this tremendous resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Ziegler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and middle initial "M." being more legible than the last name "Ziegler".

Linda Ziegler, Ed. D
Vice President

PC: Senator Ernest Hollings
Representative Henry Brown
Barry S. Perch